

friend and colleague from the Third Congressional District of Illinois, whom recently celebrated 25 years in public service as the Mayor of Chicago Ridge, Illinois.

Mayor Siegel is a hardworking, devoted man. He is a long-time resident of Chicago. Gene and his late wife, Virginia, have four children, Gary, Janet, Andrew and Matthew, and four grandchildren, Steven, Bradley, Victoria and Alexandria. Gene became involved in politics in 1963, and since then, has been involved in public service on both the local and state levels.

Mayor Siegel has always maintained an open door for all of his family, friends, constituents, and employees. He began working in public service as the Deputy Coroner for Cook County Coroner's Office; a post he held for eight years. Throughout the 70's and 80's he served as the mayor of the Village of Chicago Ridge on a part-time basis. Then, in 1993, Gene was elected as the full-time mayor and has served in this capacity for the last seven years.

Mayor Siegel is a man for the people. As mayor, he has been actively involved with people of all ages throughout the community that he serves. For example, he was instrumental in the development of a Senior Citizen Center and the establishment of the Youth Service Bureau with a Youth Director to counsel families and their children.

As mayor, Gene has made remarkable economic, environmental and infrastructure improvements to the Village of Chicago Ridge. For example, he created a solvent tax base by implementing the development of both the Chicago Ridge Mall and the Commons of Chicago Ridge. He also was involved with the improvement of Ridgeland Avenue to establish commercial land use, the installation of an adequate water system with a two million gallon reservoir, and a plumbing station.

Mayor Siegel has been instrumental in bringing economic prosperity to the community. He has proven to be a true asset to his family, friends and community. I am proud to have Mayor Siegel as a colleague of mine in the district.

I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to Mayor Siegel and his family as he celebrates 25 years in public service. This is a remarkable accomplishment and Mayor Siegel deserves great credit for the vast improvements and economic development that he has brought to the Village of Chicago Ridge. My best wishes to the Mayor and his family on this wonderful milestone.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE BILL
COATS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute today to the late District Court Judge, W. E. "Bill" Coats, of Tyler, TX, who died in April of this year at the age of 76. Judge Coats served Smith County for 30 years as judge and district attorney. He had practiced law in Smith County since 1954.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

He was elected the first Republican district attorney in Texas, serving from 1963 until 1967. He also served as judge of County Court at Law No. 2, from 1975-79, and served as 7th District Court Judge to complete his 30 years of service in Smith County. He also was appointed by the Tyler City Commission in 1968 to serve as Municipal Court Judge. Judge Coats was a Mason and Shriner and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Survivors include a son, William Fred Coats of Tyler; daughters, Fonda Reeves of Tyler, Ardis Maxwell of Luling, and LeAnn Craven of Wills Point; a brother, James Coats of Whitehouse; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Judge Coats brought dignity and honor to the courtroom—and in all that he accomplished. His distinguished career and contributions to the practice of law and the judiciary in Smith County will be long remembered, and I would like to take this opportunity to join his family, his friends, and his peers in paying our last respects to this respected District Court Judge, Bill Coats. As we adjourn today let us do so in his memory.

HONORING TILLIE BURGIN, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF MISSION AR-
LINGTON/MISSION METROPLEX

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor Tillie Burgin, executive director of Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex. Mrs. Burgin was recently inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Called the Mother Teresa of Arlington, Tillie Burgin works through Mission Arlington to provide the community's poor and underprivileged families food, clothing, shelter, counseling, childcare, healthcare, and a myriad of additional services.

Tillie Burgin originally founded Mission Arlington in August 1986 to fulfill her vision of "taking church to the community." Mrs. Burgin began with just two Bible study meetings in an apartment community. As Mission Arlington grew, however, so did Tillie's vision. The importance of meeting people's physical and emotional, as well as spiritual needs, became immediately apparent. The organization has since expanded to provide a number of social services to Arlington, bringing hope and opportunity to every person in the community.

I am proud of the work that Tillie Burgin and Mission Arlington do to strengthen the city of Arlington and its families. She has changed innumerable lives with her great energy and dedication. Texas is honored to be home to Tillie and her Mission. I cannot think of a more passionate, humble, or deserving woman to receive this honor. I salute her today.

October 13, 2000

TRIBUTE TO ST. CLEMENT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Clement Catholic Church in Center Line, Michigan as they celebrate 150 years of service to the Warren and Center Line communities with an anniversary mass on October 15, 2000.

Generation after generation has been blessed and served by St. Clement Catholic Church which has held a prominent place in their lives. Beginning in 1857, the Church has engaged in a series of reconstruction and expansion programs in order to accommodate the growing number of students.

Today, their present church is an outstanding edifice—adorned with stained glass panes, a marble altar, and has a seating capacity, of 1600 parishioners.

St. Clement Catholic Church has benefitted from outstanding leadership, and the communities are most grateful to the service and dedication of members of the clergy, past and present. Education has been a priority and though there were periods of financial hardship, the students were always a priority.

Today, Father Ron Victor continues the tradition of caring and devotion to the communities of Center Line and Warren. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending many events at St. Clement including its traditional festivals and fish-fries. Over the years, it always has been a pleasure to meet and spend time with many parishioners of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Clement Catholic Church as they continue their mission of faith and service to the parish and broader community, and wish them continued success.

HONORING SHERI ROCHFORD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to commend Sheri Rochford on her outstanding commitment to education at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Sheri's contributions as Dean of Development have helped to foster the educational environment that Fort Lewis takes such great pride in. Her efforts deserve the praise of this body.

Sheri was born in Denver, Colorado, but her family soon made Durango her home. She attended school in Southern Colorado, graduating from Durango High School and then moving on to Fort Lewis College where she graduated in 1977 with a degree in business and history. Her graduate work was done at Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After completing a master's degree in counseling, Sheri went on to do her doctorate with Harvard by attending classes on weekends and during summers in Farmington, New Mexico.

For the past five years, Sheri has been the Dean of Development at Fort Lewis College. After receiving her education, she joined the Fort Lewis College staff as a secretary for the sciences faculty. Her natural ability to lead and desire to succeed soon moved her up the ladder of advancement. Before becoming Dean, she served Fort Lewis College in the capacity of Director of Admissions.

Along with her duties at Fort Lewis, Sheri is also quite active in the community of Durango. She has served as president of the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence and has been a long time supporter and member of the La Plata County Historical Society and the Animas Museum. Sheri has worked diligently for the community of Durango and Fort Lewis College. Her contributions have been great in number. As she continues to serve as Dean of Development, I wish her the very best. Sheri is one of our own in western Colorado and she has made us all very proud.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER,
ROBERT C. BRANNON, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., a fallen firefighter from Bluefield, West Virginia, who passed away at the age of 43 after suffering a heart attack while battling a house fire.

Robert C. Brannon, Jr. lived his life with integrity, dignity and honor. He was a man known for his service to his family, his church, and his community. As an alumnus of West Virginia University and Bluefield State University, he was well-educated and well-rounded and used his education in business and engineering to help people in need. Mr. Brannon served as lieutenant and fire inspector for the Bluefield Fire Department.

Although Mr. Brannon's life was cut short, he lived it to the fullest. Before serving over 20 years with the Bluefield Fire Department he enjoyed growing up in Bluefield, West Virginia. As a boy, he played little league, wrote for his high school newspaper and was on his high school basketball team. As an adult, Robert C. Brannon, Jr. not only gained the technical knowledge to create and design web pages but also was skilled as an electrician, carpenter, stoneworker and painter.

Known by his friends and family as Bob, he was a loyal friend, husband and father. Bob, along with his wife Cindy, showed love and guidance to their two sons Jonathan and Jeffrey. He and his family were also active in Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House please join me in recognizing and honoring the life of service and dedication of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., and commemorate his sacrifice of service as a Bluefield firefighter.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF MARY
LOUISE QUIGG CALDWELL
PLUMER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize one of my constituents and very dear friends, Mary Louise Quigg Caldwell Plumer, of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on October 21, 2000.

Mary was born October 21, 1920 in Live Oak, Florida. Her parents moved to Miami when she was 6 years of age, where she was educated and graduated from Ponce de Leon High School in 1938. She served as editor of the school newspaper and was awarded the Woman's Club Cup as the "Most Outstanding Girl." Mary continued her education at the Florida State College for Women (FSCW), becoming a member of the Sophomore Council, the Cotillion Club and the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She graduated from FSCW in 1940 and transferred to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where she was awarded the Valkyrie Cup as the Most Outstanding Coed of the University, graduating in 1942.

Moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1942, she worked as the publicity director for radio station WSB. She returned to Miami and contributed to the War effort by working for the Red Cross as staff assistant to the Army Air Corps Redistribution Unit in Miami Beach, where she met her husband to be, Naval Lt. Commander Richard B. Plumer. He was graduated from Miami High School, Philips Exeter Academy and Princeton University (summa cum laude).

Mary raised four children (Richard, Penny, Christopher and Patience) and became actively involved in many worthwhile community projects. Among her accomplishments, she brilliantly led a committee to build the All Faith Chapel at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1973, five years after her daughter, Penny, died there. She has had articles published in The Miami Herald and Reader's Digest. She was awarded the M.O.M. Cup in 2000 as the Most Outstanding Mother. She also earned a prestigious reference in Who's Who of American Women.

Mary's gracious manner and warm spirit has won the hearts of the people of Miami. She is admired and respected for her compassion and generosity to anyone who is fortunate to meet her. It is my sincere pleasure and great honor to join Mary's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM H. AVERY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my congratulations to the many tributes recently given to the Honorable William H. Avery, a former member of this House and a former governor of the state of Kansas.

On September 29, the post office in Wakefield, Kansas, the hometown of Bill Avery, was renamed in his honor, and the town honored their native son by proclaiming the event the "William H. Avery Day."

I had the pleasure of working with Bill Avery at the Department of the Interior in the early 1970's after his distinguished 10-year career in Congress and as the 37th governor of Kansas. After receiving a degree from the University of Kansas in 1934, he went back to his hometown to work the family farm. He started his public service career on the local school board in his hometown, and from there was elected to the Kansas State House of Representatives before moving on to Congress and the Kansas statehouse.

Bill Avery is a man of honor and integrity who has devoted his life to serving the public. He continues to reside in Wakefield today, and it's a fitting tribute to this fine gentleman that the people of his hometown have recognized his service to their community by renaming their post office in his honor. I join in saluting The Honorable William H. Avery.

HONORING MILES KARA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Miles Kara of Grand Junction, Colorado. Miles recently passed away in his home at the age of 84. Miles lived a life full of love and happiness and his legacy will long endure. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this immense loss, I would like to take this time to pay tribute to a truly compassionate and wonderful human being.

Miles was born and raised on the western slope of Colorado, and would eventually raise his children there as well. Graduating from Fruitvale High School and Grand Junction Junior College, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado in 1937. Upon graduation, he taught at Appleton High School for a few years and then met his patriotic duty by serving his country in the United States Air Force during WWII. After returning a proud veteran, he enrolled in Westminster Law School, graduating with a law degree in 1948.

His educational background easily prepared Miles for the many career choices he would make during his service to the people of the Grand Valley. After moving back to his childhood home, Miles practiced law for a number of years before working with a number of different organizations, all serving the Grand Junction community admirably. He began his service to his community as Mesa County Judge and moved on to work for US Bank as Senior Vice President and a Trust Officer. But Miles is best known for his work in education, where he served as President of the District 51 Board of Education and as Executive Director the Mesa State College Foundation.

Miles worked hard to ensure that Grand Valley's youth were receiving the best education possible. His devotion to his community was